In February 2012, A2LA accredited its first laboratory to both ISO 15189:2007 Medical Laboratories - Particular requirements for quality and competence and ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. The medical laboratory is Nationwide Laboratory Services, located in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Nationwide specializes in end-stage renal disease laboratory testing. ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 are “sister” standards – ISO/IEC 17025 focusing on requirements applicable to all types of laboratories, while ISO 15189 focuses on clinical laboratories and patient care. Obtaining A2LA accreditation to both of these international standards was the result of enormous efforts undertaken by the laboratory’s staff. Many extra hours were devoted to labor and training that ultimately led to these accreditations.

Here is Nationwide Laboratory’s account of the accreditation process:

What A2LA did to us and for us…

As a respected COLA-accredited, CLIA-compliant laboratory, licensed by at least half a dozen states and conducting business throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and Mexico, we thought we were cool and ready for another inspection and thought an A2LA accreditation experience would be a breeze. Well it was cool, sobering breeze. The assessment by 4 people for 4 days, covering every aspect of the laboratory, was arduous and eye-opening. We received some rather deep, incisive critique, but supposedly fewer than most for a first-time assessment. This was not easily accepted, but as reality set in, it would need to be quickly, coherently and efficiently responded to if we were to become accredited to 17025 and 15189 and do it in our schedule of about 6 or 7 months, an ambitious goal for initial accreditation to both standards.

A small management group and the department supervisors became the working group that began to formulate how we would respond to the assessment findings and, at the same time, implement the changes necessary to provide the foundation for continued compliance.
without missing a beat in our daily work routine. We had to revise SOPs, train staff, inform customers, and replace literature, reports and processes. In the past, each section of the lab was somewhat autonomous using their own forms and SOPs to meet necessary requirements and standards. There was not a mandate for uniformity and consistency without repetition and overlap. It was gratifying to see a good, experienced, seasoned group of supervisors unite in this significant task, once delineated, reasoned out, and planned.

There were ISO terms and processes that required research, learning, teaching, and application as we progressed in our responses. It was, in some ways, like learning a foreign language to explain familiar concepts that had a slightly different twist. In the end it was getting the group to think as one, but not lose all individuality.

Our document control system was rudimentary, at best, and the exercise provided the incentive to advance our system to the next level. We still need to go further to be a paperless system (a work in progress, but way better than it used to be).

The ability to communicate with A2LA staff for clarification, to confirm concepts and to observe proper compliance helped save time and effort as we were planning for our initial assessment and then when providing follow-up, final documentation for their review. It was the most thorough assessment we at NLS have ever experienced and a true challenge for excellence. We are proud to be part of A2LA and proud it has brought NLS to a higher plane.

Nationwide Laboratory’s Medical (A2LA Certificate #3163.01) and Environmental (A2LA Certificate #3163.02) Scopes of Accreditation may be found on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org).

2011 Annual Report Available

The 2011 A2LA Annual Report is now available on our website. If you prefer a hardcopy, please call us at 301 644 3248, and we will be happy to provide one. The annual report provides valuable information regarding participation in our accreditation programs, national recognitions, international agreements and the financial health of the Association. We encourage everyone to read it when they have an opportunity. You may download a pdf of the annual report at http://www.A2LA.org/annreports/2011_AR.pdf.

A2LA Special Inspection Program Approval

By Beth Carbonella, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce the expansion of its accreditation activities to encompass Special Inspection Agencies in Clark County, Nevada.

The criteria for Special Inspection Agency accreditation require agencies to provide objective evidence of compliance to ISO/IEC 17020 by gaining and maintaining accreditation through a recognized Accreditation Body (AB) (such as A2LA). The accreditation will confirm compliance to ISO/IEC 17020 and jurisdictional requirements. A2LA has created the R310 – Specific Requirements: Special Inspection Agencies Inspection Body Accreditation Program document, highlighting the specific areas which go above and beyond the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020.

A2LA is currently accepting new applications for accreditation from inspection agencies who wish to comply with Clark County’s accreditation requirements. Further, A2LA is working with other jurisdictions to write relevant requirements to expand this program offering. Please direct any questions about applying for accreditation to Beth Carbonella at 301 644 3219 or ecarbonella@A2LA.org. There are resources devoted to ensure prompt attention to all interested parties’ needs. Currently accredited organizations should direct questions on expanding their Scope of Accreditation to their A2LA Accreditation Officer.
Candidates for the John W. Locke award must meet five of the six following criteria:

- Commitment of their time and services to A2LA towards the advancement of laboratory accreditation (nationally and/or internationally);
- Extensive expertise in their industry, academia and/or service sector;
- Innovative ideas adopted by their industry, academia and/or service sector;
- Demonstrated leadership in their industry, academia and/or service sector (such as standards writing), which made a significant impact on accreditation;
- Achievement of a high degree of respect from their peers; and
- Attainment of an impeccable reputation for statesmanship, diplomacy and fairness.

Based on the criteria listed above, if the recipient of the John W. Locke Award were to retire from their industry, academia and/or service sector, their expertise, leadership and knowledge would become “extinct”. Therefore, this award is affectionately subtitled, “The Dinosaur Award”.

The award this year was given to Dean Flinchbaugh, a gentleman who worked 37 years with Bethlehem Steel Corporation, where his last position was as supervisor of the Analytical Chemistry and Laboratory Services of the Research Department. He holds a Master’s Degree in Chemistry, two patents and 14 publications related to metals and environmental chemistry, quality management, reference materials, proficiency testing, measurement uncertainty, traceability and, of course, accreditation. He has been a significant participant within ASTM, which has recognized his achievements with 8 different awards of merit.

I first met him at an ASTM E1 Committee meeting, which he was chairing, and I talked him into serving on the A2LA Board of Directors. He served as an A2LA assessor for ten years and on the A2LA Board of Directors for nine years. For much of that time on the Board, he served as the Board Business Committee Chair and led the development of the first objective criteria for assessing program priorities. He also represented A2LA at ISO REMCO for a number of years.

Dean clearly meets all six of the criteria for the John Locke Award and we offer him our heartfelt congratulations on this much-deserved award! 🎉
Course:

Title: Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
- September 24-25, 2012 - Chicago, IL ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)
- November 12-13, 2012 - San Antonio, TX ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)

Title: ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation
- September 26-28, 2012 - Chicago, IL ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 members)
- November 14-15, 2012 - San Antonio, TX ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members) (2-DAY COURSE)

Title: Root Cause Analysis & Corrective Action
- November 16, 2012 - San Antonio, TX ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 members)

Title: ISO 15189 and Accreditation
- September 24-25, 2012 - Dallas TX ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)

Title: Internal Auditing (New Course)
- September 24-25, 2012 - Detroit Livonia, MI ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)

Title: Assessment of Laboratory Competence
- October 22-26, 2012 - San Diego, CA ($1595.00 non-members, $1545.00 members)

Venues:

September 23-25, 2012-Dallas, TX (ISO 15189)
Sheraton Dallas
400 North Olive Street
Dallas, TX 75201
480 315 2013
Rate: $139.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: August 24, 2012)

September 23-25, 2012-Livonia, MI (Internal Auditing)
Marriott Detroit Livonia
17100 Laurel Park Drive North
Livonia, MI 48152
734 462 3100
Rate: $114.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: September 4, 2012)

September 23-28, 2012-Chicago, IL
Marriott Chicago O’Hare
8535 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
773 693 4444
Rate: $189.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: September 9, 2012)

October 21-26, 2012-San Diego, CA
Courtyard San Diego Downtown
530 Broadway Street
San Diego, CA 92101
619 446 3000
Rate: $159.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: September 23, 2012)

November 11-16, 2012-San Antonio, TX
The Westin Riverwalk
420 West Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
210 224 6500
Rate: $189.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: October 11, 2012)

For additional information, please contact Julie Collins, A2LA Training & Membership Administrator, at 301 644 3235 or jcollins@A2LA.org.
Upcoming Webinar Training Events -
Offered by A2LA in Partnership with WorkPlace Training.

TITLE: Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
2 Hours: June 25, 2012 1:00 p.m. EDT

TOPICS:
- Measurement uncertainty definitions
- Why measurement uncertainty is required
- Measurement uncertainty and ISO/IEC 17025/ANSI Z540.3
- Minimum measurement uncertainty contributors
- Simplified process for determining measurement uncertainty
- Measurement uncertainty references

2 Hours: June 26, 2012 1:00 p.m. EDT

TOPICS:
- Understanding ILAC P14 requirements
- Metrological traceability
- Measurement uncertainty contributors
- Reporting customer’s measurement uncertainty
- Test Uncertainty Ratio (TUR) and compliance statements
- Helpful spreadsheet techniques

TITLE: Introduction to ANSI Z540.3 (3 hours for this web event)
3 Hours: June 27, 2012 1:00 p.m. EDT

TOPICS:
- Introduction to ANSI Z540.3
- Complying with ANSI Z540.3 requirements
- Development of an ANSI Z540.3 compliance checklist
- Planning, conducting and reporting the results of an ANSI Z540.3 assessment
- New requirements

TITLE: Basic Statistics for Metrology with Excel
2 Hours: June 28, 2012 1:00 p.m. EDT

TOPICS:
- Excel basic statistical functions
- Basic statistics required for measurement uncertainty
- Applying Excel statistics for measurement uncertainty
- Developing a measurement uncertainty spreadsheet
- Validation of spreadsheet

For more information about these upcoming webinars and for instructions on how to register, please visit our website at:
http://www.A2LA.org/training/workplace.cfm

www.facebook.com/A2LAAccreditation

A2LA is joining the Facebook family!
That means you may now stay up-to-date with the industry’s leading Accreditation Body on your favorite social media site. A2LA will be posting about new accreditations, relevant news, and anything else A2LA- or accreditation-related. Use this tool to connect and network with other accredited organizations as well.

A2LA invites any interested organizations to submit pictures of their staff with their A2LA Scope or Certificate. A2LA will post these pictures to our new Facebook page, along with a link to the organization’s website. Pictures should be emailed in .jpg format to Karin Athanas, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer, at kathanas@A2LA.org.

For more information about these upcoming webinars and for instructions on how to register, please visit our website at:
http://www.A2LA.org/training/workplace.cfm
Each year, A2LA presents the “Assessor Choice Award” in recognition of an individual’s skills and contributions as an A2LA assessor. The 2012 Assessor Choice Award was given to Mr. Chuck Blank.

Education and Career…

Chuck received a bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1986 from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL and an MBA from Winona State University in 1998.

Upon completion of his bachelor degree, he started his career at TRW (originally known as Lake Center Industries) and worked at various levels within the laboratory over the next twenty years. In doing so, he gained experience with dimensional layout and lighting, central validation, calibration and EMC/RFI testing and served as an internal auditor involved in supplier development.

Chuck also maintains several certifications, licenses and professional memberships. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, is a certified Six-Sigma Black Belt and is certified by ASQC as a reliability engineer and quality auditor. He is also a member of ASME, ASQC, the Acoustical Society of America and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Introduction to A2LA…

Chuck first became familiar with A2LA in 1999 when he attended an NCSL meeting in Minneapolis where A2LA Vice President/COO, Roxanne Robinson, gave a presentation on laboratory accreditation. At the completion of her presentation, Roxanne mentioned that A2LA had openings for calibration assessors.

“This was the time when QS9000 was causing a huge upswing in calibration lab applications to A2LA,” Chuck recalls. “I sent in a resume, was asked to fill out a questionnaire and was called within weeks to go out on an assessment.”

For the next few years, Chuck performed assessments for A2LA on a part-time basis and only in the area of calibration. Eventually, he also expanded into performing assessments within other technical areas with which he has expertise. In 2008, he began performing assessments for A2LA full-time and has now performed over 370 A2LA assessments.

In 2001, Chuck began volunteering his time on the A2LA Accreditation Council, helping to review assessment packages.

“Chuck is always quick to respond and willing to help whenever I have a question or need his input on something.”

—Rob Knake, A2LA Program Manager

“Chuck is well-respected by his peers and by A2LA staff and is very deserving of this award. Congratulations!”

—Pam Wright, A2LA Accreditation Manager

“Chuck is a thorough, quick and conscientious assessor.”

—Vincent Pugh, A2LA Accreditation Officer

Continued on page 7
and render accreditation decisions for new and renewal laboratory applicants. He also volunteers his time on the A2LA Measurement Advisory Committee (MAC), for which he served as Chair for a number of years. As Chair of an A2LA advisory committee, he also became an automatic member of the A2LA Criteria Council, the group of volunteers that approves all accreditation requirements, policies and interpretations of relevant international standards.

“It is no understatement to say that Chuck has contributed significantly to the Association, particularly over the past 3 years, both in the role of assessor and volunteer,” said Trace McInturff, A2LA Director of Operations.

Pam Wright, A2LA Calibration Accreditation Manager, calls Chuck a “team player”. “He can be counted on to pitch in on last minute assignments and on challenging assessments,” she says. “No matter how busy he is, he makes room in his schedule to accommodate A2LA.”

Getting Personal…

On a personal note, Chuck married his lovely wife, Jill, in Volterra, Italy, a small hill city in Tuscany, in 2005. They now live in Winona, MN and Jill is a data warehouse architect for Trane Company in La Crosse, WI. Chuck has a 24-year old stepson named Nick and helps to raise two Bichon Frises – Ollie and Amiée. He loves hiking, road biking, kayaking, snow skiing, golfing, and listening to jazz. He also enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, although this is the subject of some debate!

“I am a Harley rider,” says Tom Smith, fellow A2LA calibration assessor, “and Chuck purchased one three years ago. Every year he writes to me about all of the extra accessories, chrome and riding apparel he has purchased using the points from his Harley credit card. Just recently, he told me about picking his bike up from the Harley dealership where he stores it for the winter and he was impressed that the dealership had topped off his gas tank prior to his arrival. He also confessed that he has never purchased gas for his bike. I can just see the newspaper advertisement when he sells the bike in ten years:

2010 Harley Davidson for sale. Clean, museum quality example of a vintage bike. Fuel efficiency is unknown. Never rode it enough to purchase gas.

A2LA is truly fortunate to count Chuck among its colleagues, assessors, volunteers and technical experts. We look forward to continuing our relationship with him and extend our sincerest appreciation and congratulations for an award well-deserved. ✨
Updates on A2LA

A2LA Welcomes New Staff
By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Since the last issue of A2LA Today, three new staff members have joined A2LA as Accreditation Officers: Judah Green, Andrew Bohan and Megan McConnell.

Judah has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Morgan State University and has experience as an Assistant Technician at the University of Maryland-Baltimore, installing, configuring and maintaining telecommunications systems.

Andrew has a B.S. in Chemistry from Gettysburg College and has experience as a Production Scientist at Akonni Biosystems and as a Lab Technician at Life Technologies, both in Frederick, MD.

Megan has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Stevenson University and has completed an internship with the South African Police Service.

We welcome Judah, Andrew and Megan to the growing A2LA family! 😊

Formation of A2LA Product Certification Advisory Committee (PCAC)
By Mike Buzard, A2LA Accreditation Officer II

Over the past six years, A2LA has seen a steady increase in the number of accredited Product Certification Bodies participating in A2LA’s ISO/IEC Guide 65 accreditation program. With this growth, and our anticipated future growth as more and more industries come to realize the benefits of product certification, A2LA began to lay the groundwork for a technical advisory committee for Product Certification Bodies in late 2011.

In March 2012, A2LA held its first, exploratory meeting of the Product Certification Advisory Committee (PCAC) at the 2012 Technical Forum and Annual Meeting in Columbia, MD. Representatives from accredited Product Certification Bodies, A2LA assessors and staff, and even a few testing laboratory representatives interested in the potential of expanding into Product Certification attended this 2-hour exploratory meeting. The minutes from this exploratory meeting may be found on the A2LA website at http://www.a2la.org/forum/forum2012/agendas2012.cfm.

During this event, the attendees reviewed the bylaws of the committee and discussed the future of the advisory committee, with focus being placed on the planned release of a revised International Standard, ISO/IEC 17065, which is expected later in 2012. The committee members present also elected the inaugural chairman, David Waitt, during the meeting. Finally, a few requirement-specific discussions took place surrounding clauses within the ISO/IEC Guide 65 Standard which have caused some confusion and consternation during past assessments for both assessors and certification bodies.

A working group was created in anticipation of the need for explanations of such clauses, particularly those related to the planned ISO/IEC 17065 Standard. All explanations formed by such working groups are required to be reviewed and approved by A2LA’s Criteria Council before they are deemed mandatory.

A2LA is currently recognized by the EPA for accrediting certification bodies for the WaterSense® and ENERGY STAR® programs, and is recognized by the FCC for accreditation of Telecommunication Certification Bodies (TCBs). A2LA has accredited a total of 19 product certifiers for various certification schemes, including some schemes which were industry-driven rather than government-regulated.

A2LA welcomes anyone interested in participating on the new advisory committee to submit their requests for membership to Mike Buzard, Recording Secretary, at mbuzard@A2LA.org.

General information on the Product Certification Accreditation Program may also be requested from Mr. Buzard, as well as from Adam Gouker (agouker@A2LA.org, EMC Program Manager and main contact for TCBs) and Rob Miller (rmiller@A2LA.org, Product Certification Program Manager). 🌟
The following documents have been updated within the controlled A2LA management system. All of these documents are available on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org) through the “Search A2LA Site” tool unless otherwise indicated.

- **R223 – Specific Requirements: GE Aviation S400 Accreditation Program** was revised on February 22, 2012.
- **P108 – Technical Consensus Decisions from the Material Testing Advisory Committee (MTAC)** was revised on February 22, 2012.
- **P114 – Policy for Inclusion of External Press Releases in the A2LA Newsletter** was issued on March 7, 2012.
- **C660 – Specific Checklist: Medical Testing Program Specimen Collection Site Requirements** was revised on March 9, 2012. This checklist is available upon request only.
- **C214 – Specific Checklist: Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)** was updated on March 7, 2012.
- **R204 – Specific Requirements: Food and Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** was revised on March 7, 2012 and an associated **R204 – Transition Memorandum** was issued on March 14, 2012.
- **P101 – Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy** and the corresponding **C104 – General Checklist: Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy** were revised on March 26, 2012.
- **I103 – A2LA Accreditation Fees** was revised on May 2, 2012.
- **P104 – Policy for Claims of Measurement Uncertainties for Field Calibrations on Scopes of Accreditation** was revised on May 2, 2012.
- **F112 – Request for Expansion of Scope of Accreditation: Calibration** was revised on May 2, 2012.
- **R653 – General Requirements: Proficiency Testing for Medical Testing Laboratories Meeting the ISO 15189 Requirements** was revised on May 14, 2012.
- **R651 – General Requirements: Accreditation of Medical Testing Laboratories Meeting the ISO 15189 Requirements** was revised on May 16, 2012.

If you have any questions about these updates, please contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or your Accreditation Officer directly.
Revised Explanation of ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements

By Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

In May 2012, the A2LA Criteria Council voted to approve one revised explanation of the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 requirements. This and other explanations may be found on the A2LA website under “Accreditation Programs”, “Explanations for the ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements”.

**Question:** Does Section 5.10.2(e) require identification of the revision date of the method?

**REVISED Response:** The issue date or other identification of version of the method shall be included in the report when that information is critical to the interpretation of the reported results. For example, if an organization is using an older, superseded version of a method (for whatever valid reason) this must be indicated on the report, as it will otherwise be generally assumed that the organization used the version of the method in effect on the date the report was issued. Likewise, if two versions of a method are in effect/valid simultaneously, then an indication of which version was used by the laboratory shall be included on the report.

**R101 – General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories** states, in Part C, Section 1:

“When the date is not identified in the scope of accreditation, laboratories are expected to be competent in the use of the current version within one year of the date of publication of the standard…method.”

During the one-year transition period, any reports issued utilizing the prior version of the method (meaning that the laboratory has not yet completed transition to the newly published version) must indicate the version of the method in use as, otherwise, it will not be clear during this transition period which version was utilized.

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those individuals involved in the EPA ENERGY STAR accreditation program.

The annual A2LA banquet was held on Saturday evening. A2LA Director of Operations, Trace McInturff, presented assessors, Accreditation Council members and Criteria Council members with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30-year service awards. Chuck Blank received the annual Assessor Choice Award in recognition of his ‘workhorse’ role over the past year in support of the Association as an assessor in the areas of Calibration and Testing. Former A2LA assessor and member of the A2LA Board of Directors, Dean Flinchbaugh was honored with the John W. Locke Award (see separate articles in this issue of A2LA Today).

Sunday morning began with meetings of the A2LA Criteria Council and Accreditation Council. A separate Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) technical session and meeting was also held on Sunday morning.

Sunday afternoon was devoted to a meeting of the A2LA Assessor Committee, a plenary session for all attendees and the Annual Meeting of the Members. Chairman of the A2LA Board of Directors, Michael Kesselmayer, offered opening comments. Peter Unger presented the President’s report, and the chairmen of the Criteria Council and Accreditation Council presented reports on the weekend’s activities as well as the general activities of their Councils over the previous year.

The 2013 Technical Forum and Annual Meeting are scheduled to be held in May 2013 at the Columbia Sheraton. We hope to see you there! ☀

See more photos on page 12
World Accreditation Day 2012

Accreditation: Supporting Safe Food and Clean Drinking Water

By Peter Unger, ILAC Chair, and Randy Dougherty, IAF Chair

We are delighted to announce that World Accreditation Day took place on June 9, 2012. This year’s theme was focused on how accreditation supports the availability of safe food and clean drinking water.

We all need access to sufficient food and water to live, which, at a minimum, must be affordable, nutritionally adequate, and safe.

Food and water supply chains are changing rapidly due to factors such as greater urbanization, technological advances in processing and treatment techniques, changes in consumer demand and tastes, and evermore globalization of supply chains.

Further to this, consumers in the developed world are taking an interest in the origin of the food they eat or the source or mineral content of a bottle of water. They may also have concerns about the environmental impact or the trading ethics of the products they consume.

Given these factors, it is critical that consumers have confidence in the safety, security, and authenticity of the food and water they consume. This confidence is gained through the application of common food safety management systems, supported by credible testing and inspection regimes, both within the national economy but also across international borders from ‘source to consumption’.

There are a growing number of organizations that check compliance with these standards by providing services such as laboratory testing, calibration, inspection services, and certification services. However, it is accreditation that declares that these organizations are impartial and competent to provide these services.

Accreditation covers multiple disciplines throughout the supply chain to ensure that those who check the operators in the food and water industry can demonstrate that they are working to the appropriate standards.

Accredited testing laboratories are used to analyze for contaminants or to declare that produce is authentic. On-going surveillance and sampling is required to check that products leaving the factory meet the claims on the label week-in, week-out.

Food safety management systems are used by organizations involved in all aspects of the food and water supply chain to demonstrate their ability to control safety hazards until the point of consumption. Routine hygiene audits are carried out by accredited inspection bodies.

There are also an increasing number of accredited schemes that relate to fair trade, organic food, the treatment of animals, and impact on the environment.

Accreditation bodies that are evaluated as competent, sign arrangements that support the acceptance of accredited results and certificates across national borders. These arrangements, which are managed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), remove the need for additional tests, checks or certification at each country of entry. They also provide regulators with an internationally recognized stamp of approval to demonstrate that a supplier is complying with agreed standards.

Major events, press campaigns, workshops and seminars took place in conjunction with the celebration of World Accreditation Day in over 90 countries to raise awareness of the value that accreditation plays in the supply of safe food and clean drinking water.

A promotional brochure to celebrate the day is available for download from the ILAC and IAF websites (http://www.ilac.org/497.html and http://www.iaf.nu/articles/World_Accreditation_Day_2012/272), and a short promotional film is also available for download on the IAF and ILAC Youtube channel http://www.youtube.com/user/IAFandILAC.
During the ILAC annual meetings with BIPM (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures) in March 2012, the CIPM (Comité International des Poids et Mesures)-ILAC Memorandum of Understanding was reaffirmed. The MOU was developed to coordinate the actions of both groups with respect to their tasks related to national and international measurement infrastructure, in recognition of the need to strengthen the links between accreditation and metrology. A copy of the reaffirmed MoU is available from the “Partnerships” section of the ILAC website at: http://www.ilac.org/partnerships.html.

Also at these meetings, the joint ILAC-CIPM Communication Regarding the Accreditation of Calibration and Measurement Services of National Metrology Institutes document was finalized. This document has been agreed to by the memberships of both organizations and provides guidance on the accreditation process of NMIs for their measurement services. It is also available from the “Partnerships” section of the ILAC website at http://www.ilac.org/484.html.

BIPM has also advised that the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) has published the latest version of the VIM 3: International Vocabulary of Metrology. A link to this latest edition is available from the “Library” section of the ILAC website at http://www.ilac.org/library_documents.html under “JCGM”. 